

NUSF-99.60

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March 12, 2019

Mr. Michael Hybl
Executive Director
Nebraska Public Service Commission
300 The Atrium, 1200 "N" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508C

RE: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Requests

Dear Mr. Hybl:

Windstream Nebraska, Inc. hereby submits the attached application for broadband funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) for a Fixed Wireless project to serve the Southern area of the Murdock RL04 Exchange. Specifically, Windstream proposes to place equipment at one site, one remote Base Station approximately 1.75 miles southeast of the Murdock Central Office. The Remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have wireless backhaul to an intermediate pole having fiber connectivity to the Murdock Central Office. An electronic version of this filing has also been submitted to the NUSF Staff.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Julie Munroe

Enclosures

WINSTREAM NEBRASKA, INC.

NUSF-99 PRICE CAP APPLICATION – Murdock EXCHANGE RL04

Checklist Item No. 1:

A description of the proposed broadband project including download/upload speed capabilities which can be provided and a description of the proposed network infrastructure to be deployed. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.

Windstream's Response:

Windstream submits the following project for the Commission's consideration of NUSF-99 broadband funding, to be constructed upon funding approval, using funding available from the 2017 funding allocation.

- Fixed Wireless to serve the Southeastern area of Murdock, NE ILEC Exchange (Partial funding requested)

The Central Office for Murdock is currently connected with interoffice fiber facilities. Customers within reach of the office are qualified for 4Mbps down / 1Mbps upload broadband or better (up to 100Mbps), depending on the copper loop length from the equipment. This project intends to address those customers in the Southeastern area of the exchange that have exceptionally long loop lengths and therefore have no broadband or limited broadband availability (less than 25Mbps) by providing a Fixed Wireless solution.

- The project will place equipment at one site, one remote Base Station approximately 1.75 miles southeast of the Murdock Central Office.
- The Remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have wireless backhaul to an intermediate pole having fiber connectivity to the Murdock Central Office.

These network upgrades will enable a network capable of minimum speeds of 10Mbps download and 1Mbps upload for all impacted customers and depending upon the distance from the remote Base Station, the majority of customers will have speeds of 25Mbps and up to 100Mbps available.

Windstream projects the total deployment costs for this project is \$145,417, and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$76,716, the difference between the total project costs and the requested funding is because Windstream is not seeking funding for the areas funded by the FCC's Connect America Fund Phase 2 program or have a wireline competitor. Windstream is requesting that the funding for this project be applied against the remaining 2017 funds allotted to Windstream.

Windstream Response:

Attached Checklist Item #6 provides a listing of the retail pricing for the broadband services Windstream will be offering in the proposed service areas. This price list is consistent with Windstream pricing for similar services in other Nebraska exchanges.

Checklist Item No. 7:

The company's commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Windstream Response:

If approved for funding, Windstream commits to offer broadband service to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Checklist Item No. 8:

An affidavit from the company attesting 1) (a) that the area of the proposed project is a CAF II eligible area and have not refused CAF II funding, or (b) that the area of the proposed project is ineligible for CAF II funding. 2) That the company has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the area of the proposed project. 3) The truth and accuracy of all information included in the project filing.

Windstream Response:

The Affidavit of Brad Brannon is provided in Attached Checklist Item #8.

CHECK LIST #2 CENSUS BLOCKS - Murdock Exchange RL04

Criteria for Determining NUSF Eligibility for Census Blocks in Priority Order for Projects Using Fixed Wireless Technology:

- 1) If Census Block is CAF 2 - Not Eligible
- 2) If Census Block has Wireline Competitor with at least 10/1 broadband - Not Eligible
- 3) If Census Block Wireline Competitor is a Neighboring ILEC Sharing Service In the Census Block - Eligible
- 4) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor with at least 10/1 Broadband but Does Not Provide Voice - Eligible
- 5) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor that receives federal USF - Eligible
- 6) If proposal is for a wireline solution, then Fixed Wireless census blocks are counted - Eligible

Census Blocks	CAF 2 and Form 477 Status	Is Wireline Competitor a Neighboring ILEC?	Does Fixed Wireless Competitor Qualify as Competitor? *	NUSF Eligibility	Summary	# Census Blocks	%
310259657002198	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	50	39%
310259657002199	CAF2			CAF2	NE BB Eligible	67	53%
310259658001002	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - FW	0	0%
310259658001005	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - Other	10	8%
310259658001006	CAF2			CAF2	Total	127	100%
310259658001007	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001008	CAF2			CAF2	Eligible for Funding	67	52.8%
310259658001009	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001011	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001013	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001014	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001016	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001030	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001031	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001032	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001033	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001036	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001037	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001038	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001046	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001047	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001048	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001049	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001050	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001051	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001052	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001054	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001055	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001127	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001128	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001151	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001158	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001159	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001169	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001170	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001171	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001176	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001256	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001257	CAF2			CAF2			

310259659002038	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659002039	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659002040	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003002	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003168	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259657002200	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001012	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001018	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001029	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001053	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001129	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001130	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259658001131	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001132	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259658001133	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259658001134	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001135	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259658001136	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259658001137	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001138	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259658001140	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259658001142	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001143	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001144	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001145	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001146	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001147	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001148	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001149	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001153	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259658001155	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001156	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001163	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001164	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259658001165	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001166	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259658001172	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259658001174	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible

Footnotes:

* There are two Fixed Wireless providers per Form 477 data that provide broadband in these census blocks. Below is a table explaining why each of these providers should not be considered a valid competitor for purposes of reviewing whether each of the above census blocks should be NE BB Eligible:

Name as Used on FCC Form 477	Do they Provide Voice Service?*	Speed equal to at least 10/1?	Is Provider Unsubsidized?*	NUSF Eligibility?
Future Technologies	N	Y - 20/5	Y	NE BB Eligible
Skybeam Acquisition Corporation	Y	N - 5/1	N	NE BB Eligible

Footnotes for Table:

*Windstream has contacted each of these providers' call centers and Future Technologies said that voice services are NOT offered with their fixed wireless internet service and Skybeam Acquisition Corp said they do provide voice service.

** Skybeam Acquisition Corporation receives \$21,813 per month in Federal USF support for Nebraska per the 2nd Quarter 2019 USAC Report

Check List #3 Subscribers - Murdock Exchange RL05

Exchange	# Locations in Deployment Area
Murdock	127

Estimated Broadband Take Rate 50%
New Broadband Subscribers 64

50% Take Rate assumption is likely low since broadband is generally not available due to long loop lengths

Checklist Item #4 Estimated Schedule – Murdock Exchange RL04

Proposed Schedule:

Engineering design & approval	30 Calendar Days
Site Acquisition, permitting & material acquisition	90 to 120 Calendar Days
Equipment deployment, testing, and turn-up	30 Calendar Days

Notes:

If multiple sites are involved, work activities will be conducted concurrently, so that total time for the project is 150 to 180 days

Schedule is subject to seasonal limitations regarding when construction can commence or be completed.

Check List #6 Pricing - Murdock Exchange RL04

Price for Internet Only (HSI Simple or Solo Internet)				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$60	\$10 off for 12 months	\$50
50Mb		\$70	\$10 off for 12 months	\$60
100Mb		\$80	\$10 off for 12 months	\$70
1 Gbps		\$90	\$20 off for 12 months	\$70

Price for Internet + Bundle Phone Adder				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$70	\$10 off for 12 months	\$60
50Mb		\$80	\$10 off for 12 months	\$70
100Mb		\$90	\$10 off for 12 months	\$80
1 Gbps		\$100	\$20 off for 12 months	\$80

\$50 Activation Fee and Free Professional Installation

AFFIDAVIT OF BRAD BRANNON

I, Brad Brannon, being first duly sworn upon oath, state as follows:

1. I am currently employed by Windstream as the Vice President Consumer & Small Business - Business Intelligence. In that capacity, I am personally familiar with the company's network structure in Nebraska.

2. I have reviewed the foregoing project filing and certify that (a) the areas of the proposed project are CAF II eligible areas and have not refused CAF II funding, or the areas of the proposed project are ineligible for CAF II funding; (b) Windstream has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the areas of the proposed project that we are requesting funding; and (c) all information included in the project filing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Brad Brannon

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

:SS

COUNTY OF PULASKI

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me on this 5 day of April 2018
by Brad Brannon



Notary Public

